

F2
Sub F2
3. (Thrice Amended) A resin composition to be used in a multi-layer laminate for storing liquid foods, comprising a hydrophilic reducing organic compound kneaded with a porous inorganic compound, and a hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin, wherein the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin provides an oxygen gas barrier for the hydrophilic reducing organic compound and wherein the kneaded hydrophilic reducing organic compound, the porous inorganic compound and the water insoluble thermoplastic resin are kneaded with and dispersed in a hydrophobic thermoplastic resin.

Sub F1
11. (Amended) The laminate for packaging liquid foods of Claim 10, in which the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin of the innermost layer comprises ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer or polyvinyl alcohol having a saponification degree of 95% or higher.

F4
Sub F3
20. (Twice Amended) A method of producing a resin composition to be used in a multi-layer laminate for packaging liquid foods, comprising the steps of kneading a hydrophilic reducing organic compound and a hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin compound, at a temperature not higher than the melting point or decomposition point of the hydrophilic reducing organic compound and not lower than the melting temperature of the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin, to make a kneaded compound, wherein the hydrophilic and water insoluble resin provides an oxygen gas barrier for the hydrophilic reducing organic compound and dispersing the kneaded compound in a hydrophobic thermoplastic resin.

Ex 4
Amend
Sub 23
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21. (Twice Amended) A method of producing a resin composition to be used in a multi-layer laminate for packaging liquid foods, comprising the steps of kneading a hydrophilic reducing organic compound, a porous inorganic compound, and a hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin compound, wherein the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin provides an oxygen gas barrier for the hydrophilic reducing organic compound to make a kneaded compound, and dispersing the kneaded compound in a hydrophobic thermoplastic resin.

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Sub 23

22. (New) The resin composition of claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic reducing organic compound is included in the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin.

23. (New) The resin composition of claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic reducing organic compound kneaded with the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin is prepared by kneading the compound and the resin at a temperature lower than the melting point or decomposition point of the hydrophilic reducing organic compound and higher than the melting temperature of the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin.

Sub 24

24. (New) A pellet to be used in a multi-layer laminate for storing liquid foods, comprising a hydrophilic reducing organic compound kneaded with a hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin, wherein the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin provides an oxygen gas barrier for the hydrophilic reducing organic compound and wherein the kneaded hydrophilic reducing organic compound and the water insoluble thermoplastic resin are kneaded with and dispersed in a hydrophobic thermoplastic resin.

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25. (New) The pellet of claim 24, in which the hydrophilic reducing organic compound is present in the range of 0.05 ~ 10% by weight, the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin is present in the range of 3 ~ 40% by weight, and the hydrophobic thermoplastic resin is present in the range of 50 ~ 96% by weight.

26. (New) The pellet of claim 24, in which the hydrophilic reducing organic compound is a compound selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acids, polyphenols and catechins.

27. (New) The pellet of claim 24, in which the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin is ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer, polyvinyl alcohol having a saponification degree of 95% or higher, or polyamide resin.

28. (New) The pellet of claim 24, in which the hydrophobic thermoplastic resin comprises polyolefin resin.

29. (New) A pellet to be used in a multi-layer laminate for storing liquid foods, comprising a hydrophilic reducing organic compound kneaded with a porous inorganic compound and a hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin, wherein the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin provides an oxygen gas barrier for the hydrophilic reducing organic compound and wherein the kneaded hydrophilic reducing organic compound, the porous inorganic compound and the water insoluble thermoplastic resin are kneaded with and dispersed in a hydrophobic thermoplastic resin.

Sub 15

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30. (New) The pellet of claim 29, in which the hydrophilic reducing organic compound is present in the range of 0.05 ~ 10% by weight, the porous inorganic compound is present in the range of 0.05 ~ 10% by weight, the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin is present in the range of 3 ~ 40% by weight, and the hydrophobic thermoplastic resin is present in the range of 40 ~ 96% by weight.

31. (New) The pellet of claim 29, in which the porous inorganic compound comprises synthetic zeolite.